

# Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority

Newsletter Summer 2012  
Volume 1, Issue 2



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## How accessible are your courthouses and other county facilities?

There are at least ten federal laws that protect the civil rights of people with disabilities. The goal of these laws is to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in various aspects of society.

So, how accessible are your courthouses and other county facilities? Can people with disabilities park, enter and do whatever they are there for? Can they access the amenities such as phones, water fountains and restrooms?

The issue of ADA compliance in our WV courthouses is difficult to address due to several factors. We have some very old, often historic, buildings. The courthouses are often in downtown areas with little room to make changes, especially in parking, and the counties often do not have money to renovate.

These factors are part of what

makes program access of the utmost importance. Program access is making what goes on in the courthouses and other county facilities accessible to people with disabilities.

In March 2012 new regulations implementing Title II, State and Local Government, became effective. These regulations change several provisions of the original ADA Regulations. Things such as the definitions of a service animal, of a wheelchair and *other power-driven mobility devices*, personal services and effective communication.

The West Virginia ADA Coalition and the Mid Atlantic ADA Center can assist you in understanding these regulations as well as the new accessibility guidelines.

Go to the website at [www.adainfo.org](http://www.adainfo.org) or call 1-800-949-4232.

## Grant Coordinator Spotlight!

Joel L. Goughnour is the Administrator for the Tucker County Commission. Mr. Goughnour attended Richland Senior High School in Johnstown, PA, California State College in California, PA and West Virginia University. He holds both a Bachelors degree in education and a Masters degree in Education Administration.

He is married to Cindy Goughnour who is an elementary school teacher in Tucker County. They are the parents of one son, Justin and

his wife Antoinette and grandson Naden.

Mr. Goughnour is retired from the Tucker County School system having served 34 years there as a teacher, principal and coach. Being a Kindergarten teacher for his final eleven years before retirement was probably his most rewarding.

He has been the County Administrator for a little over 2 years. Tucker County has been awarded several grants during his tenure with the county.



"I'm proud to be involved with the construction of the new \$5.8 million Tucker County Courthouse Annex and pleased to work for the Tucker County Commission."

In addition to the WVCFIA grants, Tucker County has recently received funding from the WV Historic Preservation Grant Program, the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant, WV Court Security Grant, and WV Community Participation Grant Program.

Mr. Goughnour is a member of the First United Methodist Church in Parsons where he is a choir member, he is Vice President of the

Parsons Lions Club and member of Pythagoras Lodge AF&AM of Parsons.

Joel is known as the 'VOICE' of the Tucker County High School Mountain Lions basketball teams announcing starting line-ups and operating the scoreboard for the girls and boys basketball teams.

## Do You Have Good Cents?



Appalachian Power is offering a rebate program for all Commercial and Industrial customers in the State of WV for a limited time. You can upgrade your HVAC system, install programmable thermostats, install VFD's, and get cash.

Rebates are also being offered for lighting upgrades. Now is the time to retrofit or replace that inefficient and soon to be obsolete lighting,

while you can receive cash for it! Customers can do self installs or use an AEP registered contractor. There is no cost to the customer or the contractor. You need to move quickly as funds will be limited and will disbursed on a first in first out basis. Get paid for saving. It's smart for your business. If you have questions, contact Ed Outlaw at 304.989.2415.

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## Mingo County Perseveres for Accessibility

Mingo County Commission has completed its' vertical lift project that will assist special needs visitors in obtaining access to the Mingo Annex building and the court facilities housed there.

Originally, the commission planned to remove one half of a double set of steps at the front of the structure which would allow people with physical disabilities access to the building's main entrance.

During several pre-bid conferences held for the project, contractors expressed concerns that the removal of the stairs could jeopardize the structure's foundation.

Engineers with E.L. Robinson Engineering Services found no structural issues with installing an exterior lift.

After much discussion between Mingo County Grants Co-ordinator/Project

Manager Leigh Ann Ray, engineers, and architects with Associated Architects, it was decided that the commission would install an exterior vertical that would fill the cavities along the stairway.

The project was then advertised for bid in October 2011. Jarrett Construction was the low bidder at \$119,085.00. They had originally planned to have the project completed by December 31, 2011, but delays in shipping of the main lift assembly caused them a brief time extension.

The total final cost of the project was \$138,300.00. The commission plans to install a new video air phone system to work in conjunction with the chairlift and make access to Annex Building as easy and seamless as possible.

**Good Monthly Progress Reports are Descriptive!**

**Due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the Month following each quarter!**

**Reimbursement Requests can only be reimbursed at the 80% level.**

## Courthouse Needs Assessment reality in 2012 and 2013

**Silling Associates, Architects + Planners**, has been chosen by the West Virginia Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority to conduct a **West Virginia County Courthouse Facility Assessment**.

The assessment will be a physical facility survey and related written report of each of the state's fifty-five county courthouses and will assess the present general architectural, structural, HVAC, electrical, communications, fire protection, plumbing, and ADA compliance conditions. The report will identify needed improvement projects for the ten priority categories defined by the WVCFIA, prioritize project needs, and provide estimated construction costs for each identified project. The report will be used by the WVCFIA in determining the estimated total statewide value of the projects to assist in funding, and it will be used by the WVCFIA to award construction project grants. It is hoped that each county will utilize the Assessment as a guide with future projects on the county level and grant applications.

With an estimated 2.1 million square feet of courthouse space throughout the state's fifty-five counties, this assessment will require significant time, effort, and most importantly, great communication and collaboration with each County—including the Commission, administrators and/or managers, courthouse maintenance staff, and other elected officials. In the coming months, Silling Associates will be contacting each county to inform them of the overall assessment process, schedule the on-site courthouse inspections, collect existing floor plans for reproduction, and collect reports and general information necessary to complete the on-site assessment.

For more information or to assist with questions, please contact Mike Moore at Silling Associates at (304)346-0565 or email at [mmoore@silling.com](mailto:mmoore@silling.com).

### *The Changing Phases of the Clay County Courthouse:*



Historic Clay County Courthouse



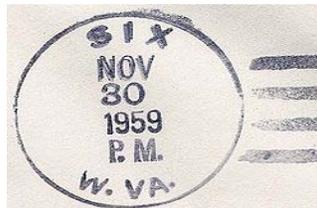
Rear entrance of the new Clay County Courthouse Annex

SAVE THE DATE!

**OCTOBER 5, 2012**

Application Postmark Deadline

\*10<sup>th</sup> Cycle Applications Postmarked Past This Date will NOT be Accepted\*



January 1, 2013

10<sup>th</sup> Cycle Contracts Begin

The updated grant application will be available on our website by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Director's Brief



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Summer is upon us and summer brings travel for many. For me, the month of June is packed full of travel for business. During the first week of June, I'll travel to four different counties to provide training and answer questions concerning our 10<sup>th</sup> cycle of grant funding. I hope to see a representative from all 55 counties during those informative sessions. If, however, a representative is not available, the new application will be available on our website after June 15<sup>th</sup>. We will also be mailing out a hard copy to each County Commission President. Please do not hesitate to call or email me if you have any questions.

The application has not changed much since the overhaul last year. The biggest change is the grant maximum award request is now at \$100,000. The match on a \$100,000 request would be \$25,000.

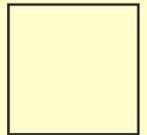
Recently, I traveled to Clay County. The CFIA provided the Clay County

Commission with a grant during the 8<sup>th</sup> cycle of funding to support the remodeling of an old building adjacent to their courthouse. The grant funds assisted with constructing load bearing walls and trusses to support the structure of the building. I must say, when I traveled to Clay to present the Commission with their 8<sup>th</sup> cycle grant, I had some doubts about the success of their project. When I approached the building this week, I was totally shocked! The building looks wonderful! Congratulations to the Clay County Commission!

As a member of the Leadership WV Class of 2012, I'll also be visiting Fayette County in June and Monongalia County in July. Hopefully, I will have time to visit each of the courthouses☺

-Melissa

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